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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9791

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

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USIA WASHDC 2648

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

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USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO

E.O. 12356: DECLASS. OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF, ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 8 - 14

REF: A) KABUL 1961, B) KABUL 2003, C) KABUL 1989, N

- D) KABUL 1988, N E) KABUL 1952, F) KABUL 2019, N

1. (U) FOR ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TO BREF PRESS.

2. SUMMARY:

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

REVIEWED by JT DATE SEP 6 1990

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(X) EXCISE (X) DECLASSIFY in PART

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TS authority to:

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A. TO BE BRIEFED TO THE PRESS:
 AFTER TWO WEEKS OF RELATIVE QUIET, MILITARY ACTION INSIDE THE CITY OF KABUL INCREASED (BUT TO A LEVEL STILL CONSIDERABLY BELOW THAT OF THREE WEEKS AGO). FOLLOWING NAJIBULLAH'S DECLARATION OF A 40-KILOMETER ZONE OF SECURITY AROUND KABUL, MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED KABUL FOR FOUR OUT OF THE NEXT FIVE DAYS FROM RANGES CONSIDERABLY SHORTER THAN 40 KILOMETERS. FOR THE WEEK THERE WERE 11 CONFIRMED ROCKETING INCIDENTS INVOLVING A TOTAL OF 50-55 ROCKETS. THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES IS UNKNOWN, BECAUSE A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE ROCKETS HIT MILITARY TARGETS TO THE WEST OF KABUL AIRPORT. NAJIBULLAH VISITED KARGHA LAKE AND 8TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS ON AUGUST 10. MEANWHILE, DESPITE REGIME ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY, KARGHA LAKE REMAINED CLOSED

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 TO FOREIGNERS AS COMBAT OPERATIONS CONTINUED ON THE PAGHMAN PLAIN TO THE WEST. IN THE SHOMALI, MUJAHIDIN WERE FORCED TO EVACUATE SHAKAR DARREH UNDER HEAVY BOMBARDMENT AND BOMBING FROM REGIME FORCES, BUT NONETHELESS MAINTAINED GENERAL CONTROL OVER THE AREA. IN KABUL EAST, A SOVIET OUTPOST AT POL-E CHARKHI WAS ROCKETED BY MUJAHIDIN ON TWO OCCASIONS EARLY THIS MONTH. AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT HEAVY FIGHTING IN KONDUZ PROVINCE, WITH REGIME MEDIA DENYING THAT MUJAHIDIN HAD POSSESSION OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL EARLY IN THE WEEK, BUT OTHER EVIDENCE ARGUING TO THE CONTRARY. RUMORS HAVE ARISEN CONCERNING A POSSIBLE ROCKET ATTACK ON THE POL-E KHOMRI AMMO/FUEL DUMP, WHICH CONTAINS TWO YEARS' WORTH OF REGIME AMMUNITION AND A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF KABUL'S FUEL SUPPLY. FIGHTING IS REPORTED IN TAKHAR, JAWZJAN, PARWAN, LAGHMAN, NANGARHAR, LOGAR, PAKTIA, GHAZNI AND KANDAHAR PROVINCES. THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL APPEARS TO BE PROCEEDING NORMALLY, AND THE GENERAL CONCLUSION BY JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT TO WITHDRAW HALF THEIR TROOPS BY AUGUST 15. JOURNALISTS VISITED HERAT AND FOUND THE CITY QUIET BUT VERY TENSE. THE REGIME HAS BECOME EVER MORE DESPERATE FOR NEW RECRUITS TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE DEPARTING SOVIETS. AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF SOVIET DEPENDENTS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED, BUT SOVIET DIPLOMATS CONTINUE TO DENY THIS. FOOD AND FUEL SUPPLIES ARE WORSENING IN KABUL, AND THIS WINTER PROMISES TO POSE SEVERE SUPPLY PROBLEMS FOR THE REGIME.

B. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS, WESTERN EMBASSIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. EMBASSY, ARE TAKING SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN THE WAKE OF MUJAHIDIN WARNINGS ABOUT

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS AGAINST KABUL ON AUGUST 15 AND 18.
RUMORS CONTINUE TO EMERGE ABOUT NAJIDULLAH'S IMMINENT

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TAGS: PREL, HOP, MAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 8 - 14

POLITICAL DENISE.

SOME NEW DETAILS ABOUT THE JOINT SOVIET/AFGHAN OPERATION.
THE SOVIETS ARE ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT AGREEMENTS WITH
LOCAL MUJAHIDIN COMMANDERS TO FACILITATE TROOP WITH-

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DRAWALS, IN AT LEAST ONE CASE REPORTEDLY AT THE INSISTENCE OF GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV. JAMIAT AND HEZBI-ISLAMI (GULBUDDIN) FORCES ARE REPORTEDLY ENGAGED IN INTERNECINE CONFLICT AROUND THE TOWN OF BAGRAM. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) KABUL CITY DEVELOPMENTS: THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8-14 WAS LESS QUIET THAN THE WEEK BEFORE. IT BEGAN WITH NAJIBULLAH'S DECLARATION ON AUGUST 8 OF A SPECIAL SECURITY ZONE INTENDED EVENTUALLY TO EXTEND 30-40 KILOMETERS OUTSIDE THE CITY. THIS ASSERTION ON NAJIBULLAH'S PART WAS CONTRADICTED BY MUJAHIDIN RENEWAL OF LIMITED ROCKETING, INDICATING THAT THEY WERE OPERATING WELL WITHIN THE SECURITY PERIMETER. DURING THE WEEK, THERE WERE 11 SEPARATE CONFIRMED ROCKETING INCIDENTS INVOLVING AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF 50-55 ROCKETS, MOST OF WHICH WERE DIRECTED AT SOVIET BASE AREAS WEST OF THE AIRPORT. TOTAL CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE ARE UNKNOWN, BECAUSE MOST OF THE ROCKETS APPEAR TO HAVE HIT IN

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MILITARY AREAS. THE EVENING OF AUGUST 8 AT 2100, TWO ROCKETS HIT THE OLD CITY, KILLING SIX PERSONS. ON AUGUST 9 AT 0700 A SINGLE ROCKET STRUCK KHAIR KHANA, KILLING TWO. IN THE LATE MORNING 3-4 ROCKETS HIT THE AIRPORT AREA ABOUT 1000 METERS TO THE WEST OF THE RUNWAY. AMBULANCES WERE OBSERVED PROCEEDING TO THE SCENE, BUT SINCE THE ROCKETS HIT IN A MILITARY AREA, CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN. ON AUGUST 10, THERE WERE FIVE SEPARATE INCIDENTS. AT 0700, FIVE ROCKETS HIT HAZIRABAD, TO THE SW OF THE AIRPORT. AT 1030, AT LEAST ONE ROCKET HIT THE AIRPORT AREA. AT 1300, 17 ROCKETS HIT CHAR QALA, TO THE SW OF THE AIRPORT, KILLING 16 PERSONS. TWO ROCKETS ARE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE HIT THE AIRPORT GROUNDS WEST OF THE RUNWAY. AT 1339, A WESTERN DIPLOMAT WITNESSED FOUR ROCKETS HITTING SOVIET MILITARY AREAS IN A PATTERN 500-1000 YARDS WEST OF THE RUNWAY. AT 1552 8-15 ROCKETS HIT IN THE CHAR QALA AREA, CAUSING UNKNOWN CASUALTIES AND DAMAGING A MOSQUE. AMBULANCES AND FIRE TRUCKS WERE OBSERVED RUSHING TO THE SCENE. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THAT DURING THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON ROCKET ATTACKS, SEVERAL AIRCRAFT IN THE SOVIET MILITARY AREA WERE DAMAGED. ON AUGUST 11 AT 0300 THREE ROCKETS HIT IN KOTE SANGI. AFGHANS REPORT THAT MANY WERE KILLED, BUT TOTAL CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN. ON AUGUST 12 A SINGLE ROCKET WAS HEARD HITTING THE CHAR QALA AREA WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. FINALLY, ON AUGUST 14 IN THE EARLY MORNING, TASS REPORTS THAT FOUR ROCKETS HIT KABUL (AREA UNDEFINED), KILLING FIVE AND INJURING SIX, THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT DURING THE LATE

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EVENING OF AUGUST 14 MUJAHIDIN FIRED ROCKETS INTO
KARGHA, PAGHMAN AND THE KOH-E GORROGH REGION. NO
ESTIMATE ON CASUALTIES IS AVAILABLE. AT 0915 ON AUGUST
8 AN AFGHAN MILITARY HELICOPTER CRASHED IN KHAIR KHANA
AFTER DEVELOPING "TECHNICAL PROBLEMS", ACCORDING TO
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KHANA RESIDENTS). UNUSUAL SECURITY MEASURES WERE PUT INTO EFFECT ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THE WEEK. DURING THE MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 10, ARMORED VEHICLES LINED THE KARGHA ROAD FROM THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL ALL THE WAY TO KARGHA LAKE, IN PREPARATION FOR NAJIBULLAH'S VISIT THAT MORNING TO AFGHAN 8TH ARMY HEADQUARTERS AND KARGHA LAKE. WESTERN DIPLOMATS ALSO SAW SNIPERS POSTED ON ROOFTOPS ALONG THE MOTORCADE ROUTE. ALSO, DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 14, AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF AFGHAN SECURITY PATROLS WERE POSTED IN THE WAZIR AKBAR KHAN AREA, INCLUDING SOME ARMORED VEHICLES AND GUNS ON TOP OF BIBI MAROU. THESE UNITS WERE PROBABLY POSITIONED IN ANTICIPATION OF RUMORED IMMINENT MUJAHIDIN OPERATIONS AGAINST KABUL.

-- PROVINCE DEVELOPMENTS --

4. (U) KABUL WEST: DESPITE REGIME ASSURANCES THAT KARGHA LAKE WOULD BE OPENED UP TO FOREIGNERS IN THE NEAR

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FUTURE, THE DAM, LAKE, RESTAURANT AND PORTIONS OF THE GOLF COURSE REMAINED CLOSED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AS COMBAT OPERATIONS CONTINUED ON THE PAGHMAN PLAIN TO THE WEST. DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK, ELEMENTS OF AN AFGHAN UNIT SET UP ARMOR AND GUN POSITIONS AT THE BASE OF THE DAM WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED AND CAMOUFLAGED. ACCORDING TO AFGHAN SOURCES, BOTH SOVIET AND AFGHAN TROOPS TOOK HEAVY CASUALTIES IN OPERATIONS AGAINST MUJAHIDIN FORCES AROUND PAGHMAN. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS CONTROLLED THE TOWN OF PAGHMAN AND SEVERAL FORMER RA OUTPOSTS, ONLY ONE, KOTE SITARA, WAS RELATIVELY SAFE FROM MUJAHIDIN ATTACK. DURING THE WEEK THE PAGHMAN AREA WAS BOMBED, ROCKETED AND SHELLED BY SUPPORTING SOVIET UNITS DAY AND NIGHT. AT 1030 ON AUGUST 10, NAJIBULLAH, INTERIOR MINISTER GULABZOI AND CHIEF OF STAFF TANAI VISITED THE KARGHA LAKE AREA AND REVIEWED TROOPS THERE. ON AUGUST 12, ANOTHER AFGHAN UNIT, APPARENTLY TSARANDOI, WAS OBSERVED BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS DEPLOYING WEST ON THE KARGHA ROAD TO THE PAGHMAN PLAIN. APPROXIMATELY 40-50 BMP'S WERE TRANSPORTING THE MEN, WHO WERE SITTING ON TOP OF THE VEHICLES, IMPLYING THAT AT THAT TIME IT WAS NOT DANGEROUS TO BE OUT IN THE OPEN NEAR KARGHA LAKE. ON AUGUST 13, MUJAHIDIN WERE REPORTED TO BE STRONG IN THE BEKTUT AREA AND THE DARYA-E PAGHMAN. THERE WERE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN HAD USED MILAN ANTITANK MISSILES AGAINST SOVIET FORCES EARLY IN THE WEEK. THERE WAS NO INDICATION BY WEEK'S END THAT THE FIGHTING WAS OVER IN THE PAGHMAN AREA.

5. (U) KABUL NORTH: FIGHTING CONTINUED BETWEEN REGIME TROOPS AND MUJAHIDIN IN THE SHOMALI, WITH PERIODIC

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MUJAHIDIN INTERDICTION OF THE SALANG ROAD AND HEAVY
REGIME BOMBARDMENT OF SHAKAR DARREH. ON AUGUST 5.
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TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, FINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 8 - 14

MUJAHIDIN WERE REPORTEDLY STOPPING TRAVELERS ON THE

SALANG ROAD AT KALAKAN (34°47'N 69°09'E) AND CHARGING

THEM A ROAD TAX RANGING FROM 2,000 TO 20,000 AFGHANIS IF

THEY WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGIME. ON AUGUST 8 AND 9

SHAKAR DARREH AND GUL DARREH WERE HEAVILY SHELLED AND

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BOMBED. ON AUGUST 9 AN RA POST IN THE QARABAGH AREA WAS OVERRUN BY MUJAHIDIN. CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN. ON AUGUST 11, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED THREE SUPPLY TRUCKS AT KALAKAN AND CONFISCATED THEIR CARGO. ALSO ON AUGUST 12, MUJAHIDIN FIRED ON A VEHICLE ON THE SALANG ROAD WHICH DID NOT STOP AT A CHECKPOINT. THE TRUCK, WHICH WAS CARRYING COAL TO KABUL, WAS CONFISCATED. THE DRIVER ESCAPED. ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 12, SEVERAL GOVERNMENT POSTS IN THE SHAKAR DARREH AREA DESERTED TO MUJAHIDIN. BY THE END OF THE WEEK, HEAVY BOMBARDMENT OF SHAKAR DARREH FORCED MUJAHIDIN TO WITHDRAW MOST OF THEIR FORCES FROM THE TOWN TOWARD GUL DARREH. HOWEVER, THE AREA IS STILL UNDER MUJAHIDIN CONTROL.

6. (U) KABUL SOUTH: PROBABLY AS A PART OF NAJIBULLAH'S DECLARED 40-KM SECURITY ZONE, REGIME TROOPS HAVE BEEN AIRLIFTING ARMOR TO HILLTOPS AROUND RISHKHOR (34°26'N 69°08'E), LALANDAR (34°23'N 69°04'E) AND TAIGI SAIDA (NOT LOCATED). AFGHANS REPORT SIMILAR ACTIVITIES IN THE

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HILLS OVERLOOKING KHAIR KHANA (TO THE NORTH OF KABUL) AND KOHE SAFI (TO THE EAST). AFGHAN SOURCES ALSO REPORT THAT SERIOUS FIGHTING BETWEEN REGIME TROOPS AND MUJAHIDIN IS TAKING PLACE AT THE RUINS OF KHAK-E-JABAR (34°24'N 69°29'E).

7. (U) KABUL EAST: AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON AUGUST 7 THE SOVIET OUTPOST AT POL-E CHARKHI WAS ROCKETED. EIGHTEEN ROCKETS FELL INTO THE BARRACKS AREA, WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. ON AUGUST 9, A MILITARY AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTED BY AFGHAN SOURCES TO HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN NEAR POL-E CHARKHI. THE SOVIET OUTPOST WAS ROCKETED AGAIN ON AUGUST 12. BY COINCIDENCE, THIS SAME SOVIET OUTPOST WAS VISITED BY JOURNALISTS WHO WERE IN KABUL FOR ACTIVITIES MARKING THE AUGUST 15 HALFWAY POINT IN THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL. ACCORDING TO SOVIETS, THE POL-E CHARKHI OUTPOST IS ONE OF TEN SIMILAR SOVIET INSTALLATIONS RINGING KABUL. IT HAS EIGHT DUG-IN VEHICLES (SELF-DEPLOYED GUNS) AND 40 MEN. REPORTEDLY, SOME OF THE SOVIET CONSCRIPTS HAVE SPENT THEIR ENTIRE 18-MONTH TOUR AT THIS LOCATION.

8. (U) KONDUZ: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER SOVIET FORCES BEGAN THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM KONDUZ, MUJAHIDIN FORCES (JAMIAT AND HEZB-E ISLAMI GULBUDDIN) WENT OVER TO THE ATTACK. ON AUGUST 9, THE CITY OF KHANABAD (36°41'N 69°07'E) WAS OVERRUN. ON AUGUST 11 MULTIPLE SOURCES CONFIRM THAT HEAVY FIGHTING WAS TAKING PLACE INSIDE THE CITY OF KONDUZ, WITH REGIME REINFORCEMENTS BEING RUSHED FROM POL-E-KHAKH AND MAZAR-E SHARIF. ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, AT ONE

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POINT MUJAHIDIN HAD CONTROL OF ALL OF THE CITY EXCEPT
FOR THE AIRPORT (REGIME MEDIA CLAIM THAT MUJAHIDIN NEVER
GOT BEYOND THE SUBURBS OF KONDUZ). DIPLOMATIC SOURCES
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TAGS: PREL, MOPS, HCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 8 - 14

REPORT THAT DURING THE FIGHTING MUJAHIDIN FORCES

CAPTURED THE MAIN PRISON IN KONDUZ AND FREED ALL THE

PRISONERS. ACCORDING TO AFGHAN SOURCES, SOVIET AIRCRAFT

FROM BASES IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE USSR BOMBED AND

STRAFED MAJOR PORTIONS OF KONDUZ, CAUSING MUCH

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DESTRUCTION. THERE ARE SOME REPORTS THAT SOVIET TROOPS ON THEIR WAY OUT OF AFGHANISTAN WERE DIVERTED TO CR; REMAINED IN KONDUZ PROVINCE AS A RESULT OF THE BATTLE FOR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN KA?HL

ON AUGUST 14, GENERAL GROMOV WAS VAGUE ABOUT THE QUESTION OF SOVIET AIRSTRIKES ON KONDUZ AND DENIED THAT SOVIET GROUND TROOPS WERE TAKING PART IN THE BATTLE, ASSERTING THAT THE AFGHAN ARMY WAS DEALING WITH THE SITUATION. ACCORDING TO REGIME CLAIMS, MUJAHIDIN HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RETREAT FROM KONDUZ. AFGHAN SOURCES INDICATE THAT NAJIBULLAH DEMOTED THE MILITARY COMMANDER FOR THE KONDUZ AREA.

9. (U) BAGHLAN: ACCORDING TO AFGHAN, SOVIET AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THERE ARE REPORTS OF A ROCKET ATTACK ON THE AMMUNITION AND FUEL DUMP AT KALAGAY, SOUTH OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF POL-E KHOMRI. THIS INSTALLATION CONTAINS MOST OF THE REGIME'S AMMUNITION (ABOUT A

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TWO-YEAR SUPPLY) AND A SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE OF KABUL'S FUEL SUPPLY. DETAILS ARE SKETCHY. ONE SOURCE REPORTS THAT AROUND AUGUST 8-9 MUJAHIDIN CONDUCTED A ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST THE AMMO DUMP. TWO ROCKETS STRUCK ARMORED VEHICLES GUARDING THE DUMP, AND SOME FUEL TANKS NEARBY ALSO CAUGHT FIRE. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A LARGE FIRE, IT WAS CONTAINED TO ONE AREA OF THE DUMP AND NO AMMUNITION BLEW UP. A SOVIET SOURCE REPORTS THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE ROCKET, THAT FUEL AND AMMUNITION BLEW UP, SOVIET HELICOPTERS WERE DESTROYED, AND THAT SOVIET CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE THERE IS SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THE ROCKET WAS MUJAHIDIN. AT HIS AUGUST 14 PRESS CONFERENCE IN KABUL, GENERAL GROMOV WAS ASKED ABOUT POL-E KHOMRI, BUT SIDESTEPED THE ISSUE BY NOTING THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR MILITARY ACTION IN THE POL-E KHOMRI AREA AT THIS TIME (HOWEVER, HEAVY SOVIET BOMBING IS REPORTED IN THE AREA).

10. (U) TAKHAR/JAWZJAN: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORTED HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND THE PROVINCIAL CAPITALS TALOQAN AND SHEBERGHAN.

11. (U) PARWAN: ON AUGUST 5, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A FUEL CONVOY AT THE SOUTH END OF THE SALANG TUNNEL. FIVE FUEL TANKERS WERE DESTROYED. ON AUGUST 12 MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED THE REAR PORTION OF AN AMMUNITION CONVOY NORTH OF THE SALANG TUNNEL, CARRYING OFF THE CONTENTS OF THREE OF THE VEHICLES.

12. (U) LAGHMAN: AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT A STEPPING-UP OF MUJAHIDIN ACTION IN LAGHMAN. AT KARAKHEL

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(NOT LOCATED) MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED THREE RA POSTS, CAUSING
AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF REGIME CASUALTIES. ON AUGUST 9,
REGIME MEDIA REPORT THAT MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED THE TOWN OF

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	STR-17	SIL-01	INRE-00	RP-10	SP-02	SR-06	SNP-01
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TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF, ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 8 - 14

MEHTERLAM, KILLING FOUR CIVILIANS AND INJURING EIGHT.

13. (U) NANGARHAR: CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO BE INSECURE IN JALALABAD, WHICH IS REGULARLY ROCKETED BY MUJAHIDIN. SO MANY PEOPLE ARE ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE JALALABAD NOW THAT A BUS TICKET TO KABUL, WHICH NORMALLY COSTS 400

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AFGHANIS, GOES FOR 2,000. JALALABAD HOSPITALS ARE OVERCROWDED, AND SOME CASUALTIES ARE BEING SENT TO HOSPITALS IN KABUL. ON AUGUST 10 MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A POST AT ESTEKAM PUL (NOT LOCATED), KILLING TWO RA SOLDIERS AND DESTROYING ONE VEHICLE. ON AUGUST 11, MUJAHIDIN AND RA SOLDIERS CLASHED AT SAR KAND OW BABA (34°30"N 70°00"E) ON THE JALALABAD ROAD. ONE RA APC WAS DESTROYED, AND ONE CIVILIAN MICROBUS WAS HIT WITH A ROCKET. FIVE PERSONS WERE KILLED.

14. (U) LOGAR: ACCORDING TO AFGHANS, MOHAMMAD AGHA IS IN REGIME HANDS, ALTHOUGH MUJAHIDIN CONTINUE TO OPERATE FREELY WITHIN THE CITY. ON AUGUST 7, TWO KHAD OFFICERS WERE DRAGGED FROM THEIR VEHICLE AND KILLED (LOCATION UNKNOWN). ON AUGUST 8, REGIME FORCES CONDUCTED AN AIRSTRIKE AGAINST ZULMABAD (NOT LOCATED). THREE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED.

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15. (U) PAKTIA: DIPLOMATS REPORT THAT ON AUGUST 5, TWO RA HELICOPTERS TRANSPORTING MILITIA WERE SHOT DOWN NEAR URGUN. CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN. ON AUGUST 8, AFGHAN WARPLANES INTENSIVELY BOMBED ALIKHEL AND TWO SMALL VILLAGES NEARBY, SHARIF KILI AND LAR LAVANI. CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN. REGIME MEDIA REPORT THAT ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 13-14, KHOST AND GARDEZ WERE ROCKETED, RESULTING IN 14 DEAD AND 20 WOUNDED.

16. (U) GHAZNI: AFGHANS REPORT THAT ON AUGUST 9 IN GHAZNI CITY 12 RA SOLDIERS WERE KILLED WHEN THEIR TRUCK WAS ROCKETED BY MUJAHIDIN. ON AUGUST 10, FIVE KHAD PERSONNEL AND THEIR JEEP WERE CAPTURED BY THE FORCES OF COMMANDER SEY JAGLAN.

17. (U) KANDAHAR: KANDAHARIS REPORT THAT HEAVY FIGHTING IS GOING ON BETWEEN REGIME FORCES AND MUJAHIDIN AROUND THE TOWN OF ARGHANDAB. ON AUGUST 10 EIGHT PERSONS WERE KILLED IN CLASHES IN KANDAHAR CITY. SINCE AUGUST 11, KANDAHAR AIRPORT HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN CLOSED. ON THAT DAY A CIVILIAN FLIGHT FROM KABUL SET OUT FOR KANDAHAR, BUT RETURNED TWO HOURS LATE WHEN IT WAS UNABLE TO LAND AT KANDAHAR AIRPORT. (FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN KANDAHAR SEE KABUL 1988.)

18. (U) HERAT: ACCORDING TO JOURNALISTS WHO RECENTLY VISITED HERAT, THE CITY IS QUIET BUT VERY TENSE. SOME HERATIS CLAIMED THAT TEN TO TWELVE RA SOLDIERS ARE WOUNDED IN CLASHES WITH MUJAHIDIN EVERY DAY. WHILE IN TOWN, THE JOURNALISTS WERE RESTRICTED IN THEIR MOVEMENTS, AND ONE WAS PERSUADED AT GUNPOINT TO REFRAIN FROM EXPLORING OFF THE MAIN STREETS. AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT MUJAHIDIN HAVE BROKEN THROUGH HERAT'S DOUBLE DEFENSE RING IN PLACES, AND CONTROL SOME OF THE SUBURBAN

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AREAS. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, JOURNALISTS WERE FLOWN INTO

SHINDAND AIRBASE AND THEN TRANSPORTED TO HERAT ATOP

BTR'S. THEY REPORT THAT THE ROAD FROM SHINDAND THROUGH

HERAT AND ALL THE WAY TO THE BORDER OF THE SOVIET UNION

WAS MARRED WITH BURNED OUT VEHICLES, BOTH CIVILIAN AND

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MILITARY. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES REPORTED IN THE ROAD COLUMN TAKING THE JOURNALISTS NORTH. HOWEVER, SEVERAL SOVIET SOLDIERS IN PROTECTION COLUMNS MOVING PARALLEL TO THE MAIN BODY WERE REPORTED WOUNDED IN SKIRMISHES WITH MUJAHIDIN.

19. (U) BALKH: AFGHANS REPORT THAT MAZAR-E SHARIF IS RELATIVELY QUIET IN THE CENTER OF TOWN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE FREQUENT CLASHES BETWEEN MUJAHIDIN AND REGIME TROOPS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY. EARLIER IN THE WEEK SEVERAL ROCKETS WERE FIRED INTO THE CITY BY MUJAHIDIN.

20. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

A. REGIME DESPERATE FOR NEW RECRUITS: IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL, NAJIBULLAH'S DECLARATION OF A 30-40 KM SECURITY ZONE AROUND KABUL, AND THE INCREASED LEVEL OF COMBAT IN MANY AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, THE REGIME IS APPARENTLY STEPPING UP ITS DRIVE FOR NEW RECRUITS.

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THIS IS INDICATED IN REGIME MEDIA BY PERIODIC REFERENCES TO THE FORMATION OF NEW ARMY CADRES AND ARTICLES ON PARTY MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTARILY REGISTER THEIR NAMES WITH THE LOCAL MILITARY COMMISSARIAT (KABUL TIMES, AUGUST 4), AND PERIODIC REPORTS ON DYQA PARAMILITARY TRAINING ACTIVITIES (KABUL TIMES, AUGUST 1). ACCORDING TO AFGHAN SOURCES, WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING IS THAT WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY AFGHAN MALES, RANGING IN AGE FROM TEENAGERS TO OLD MEN, ARE BEING TAKEN OFF THE STREETS OF KABUL AND IMPRESSED IN TO THE ARMY. AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT THE INDUCTION CENTER AT KANDAK-E TAJAMMU (IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN JUST NORTH OF THE U.S. EMBASSY) IS NOTABLE FOR THE PRESENCE OF MOTHERS OF MISSING CHILDREN WHO ARE SCANNING THE DRAFT LISTS TO SEE IF THEIR SONS HAVE RECENTLY "VOLUNTEERED". THE SITUATION IS NOT AS BAD YET AS IN PAST YEARS, WHEN THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF THE INDUCTION CENTER, BUT MANY AFGHANS EXPECT THAT RENEWED PROTESTS ARE NOT FAR OFF. AS AN INDICATION OF HOW DESPERATE THE REGIME AUTHORITIES ARE FOR NEW RECRUITS, IN EARLY AUGUST TWO DIPLOMATS WERE ACCOSTED ON CHANDAR STREET BY PLAINCLOTHESMEN, WHO EVENTUALLY IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS JELGAR (MP'S). THE PLAINCLOTHESMEN, MISTAKING THE TWO DIPLOMATS FOR AFGHANS, TOLD THEM THAT UNLESS THEY COULD PRODUCE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS, THEY WOULD BE INDUCTED ON THE SPOT INTO THE AFGHAN ARMY.

B. CONFISCATION OF HINDU PROPERTY: THE REGIME IS THREATENING THOSE HINDUS WHO FLED JALALABAD FOR KABUL WITH CONFISCATION OF ALL THEIR PROPERTY IN JALALABAD IF THEY DO NOT RETURN AT ONCE. THE HINDUS IN TURN ARE

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COMPLAINING TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THEY ARE REFUGEES,
AND SHOULD BE GIVEN FOOD, CLOTHING AND OTHER NECESSARY
AID. MOST NEWLY-ARRIVED HINDUS IN KABUL ARE QUITE
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	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00	EAP-00	PA-01
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF, ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 8 - 14

POOR. THE WEALTHIER ONES FLED TO INDIA, BUT THOSE WHO
 COULD NOT AFFORD THE COST OF PASSAGE PLUS THE 2,000 AFS
 PER DAY HOTEL EXPENSES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO COME TO
 KABUL.

21. (U) POLITICAL/MILITARY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

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A. SOVIET WITHDRAWAL. WESTERN JOURNALISTS WITNESSED THE PULLOUT OF A BATTALION-SIZED SOVIET UNIT FROM KABUL ON AUGUST 9, AND THEN WERE FLOWN TO SHINDAND, WHERE THEY ACCOMPANIED SOVIET TROOPS MOVING TO THE BORDER AT TORGHONDI. AUGUST 11-12 THEY WITNESSED BORDER CROSSINGS AT TORGHONDI AND HAIRATAN. JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATS ARE GENERALLY IN AGREEMENT THAT BY AUGUST 14 THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH THEIR COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAW HALF OF SOVIET FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN BY MID-MONTH, DESPITE SOME INDICATIONS THAT WITHDRAWING SOVIET TROOPS MAY HAVE DELAYED THEIR DEPARTURE OR BEEN DIVERTED DUE TO HEAVY FIGHTING IN KONDUZ PROVINCE.

B. SOVIET DEPENDENTS EVACUATED. MIKRORAYON SHOPKEEPERS REPORT THAT OVER 95 PERCENT OF THE SOVIET WIVES AND CHILDREN THAT LIVED IN THE AREA HAVE RETURNED TO THE

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SOVIET UNION "FOR GOOD". THE ONLY FOREIGNERS IN THE AREA NOW ARE IRANIANS (BELONGING TO THE FEDAYEEN AKSARIAT), IRAQIS AND A FEW POLES. SOVIET DIPLOMATS REMAIN SILENT ABOUT THE EVACUATION, CONTENDING THAT WIVES AND CHILDREN ARE ONLY ON SUMMER VACATION. MEANWHILE, REGIME MEDIA CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE THE DECISION BY WESTERN EMBASSIES AND UN OFFICES TO EVACUATE THEIR DEPENDENTS. A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE KABUL TIMES NOTED THAT THE EVACUATION OF WESTERN DEPENDENTS HAS "CREATED PANIC AND INSECURITY," AND BLAMED PAKISTAN FOR THE SITUATION. THE ARTICLE ALSO ASSERTED THAT "DURING THE NINE YEARS OF UNDECLARED WAR, NOT A SINGLE DIPLOMATIC STAFF OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN HARMED IN OUR COUNTRY." (SIC), CONVENIENTLY OMITTING MENTION OF THE FACT THAT NINE YEARS AND SIX MONTHS AGO U.S. AMBASSADOR SPIKE DUBS WAS KILLED UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES SHORTLY AFTER BEING TAKEN HOSTAGE IN DOWNTOWN KABUL.

C. FUEL AND FOOD SHORTAGES WORSEN. ACCORDING TO AFGHAN SOURCES, FUEL SHORTAGES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY SCARCE. WOOD, COAL AND ELECTRICITY ARE ALREADY IN SHORT SUPPLY, PORTENDING A VERY LEAN WINTER. MEANWHILE, DURING A SPEECH TO TRANSPORT WORKERS, NAJIBULLAH PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THOSE WHO ARE HOARDING FOOD IN KABUL, NOTING THAT "HUNGER AND STARVATION DO NOT THREATEN ANY CITY OR PROVINCE OF OUR COUNTRY." MOST AFGHANS, HOWEVER, DO NOT BELIEVE NAJIBULLAH, AND ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES SOME ARE ALREADY STOCKPILING BASIC COMMODITIES SUCH AS TEA, SUGAR AND FLOUR.

D. DOLLAR FALLS. THE U.S. DOLLAR HAS FALLEN FROM ITS HIGH AGAINST THE AFGHANI OF 221 TO THE DOLLAR TO 210 TO THE DOLLAR ON AUGUST 14. MONEY BAZAAR MERCHANTS ...

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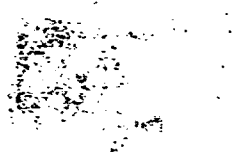
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ATTRIBUTE THE DROP TO PROGRESS IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. PREVIOUSLY, IRANIANS SENT THEIR LOCAL CURRENCY TO KABUL TO TRADE IT IN FOR DOLLARS, DRIVING UP ITS PRICE. NOW, WITH BETTER PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN IRAN, IRANIANS ARE NO LONGER BUYING MANY.

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DOLLARS IN THE KABUL MONEY BAZAAR.

22. (U) MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS

A. REGIME ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH ISLAM. THE KABUL TIMES REPORTED IN ITS AUGUST 13 ISSUE ON NAJIBULLAH'S ADDRESS TO THE ISLAMIC HIGH CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON PREPARATIONS FOR A WORLD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN KABUL. THE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL REPRESENTS YET ANOTHER ATTEMPT ON THE PART OF THE REGIME TO IDENTIFY ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH ISLAM. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HIGH CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE ITSELF WERE CAREFULLY OBSCURED IN THE NEWS ARTICLE, PROBABLY BECAUSE NO ONE OF ANY IMPORTANCE OR INFLUENCE IN ISLAMIC AFFAIRS PLANS TO ATTEND. SIMILARLY, THE KABUL TIMES RECENTLY PUBLISHED AN EFFUSIVE EULOGY FOR ASSASSINATED PASHTUN RELIGIOUS LEADER AREF HUSSAINI.

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B. BRITISH CITIZEN PRAISES KABUL HOSPITAL. IN A REMARKABLE EXERCISE IN SOPHISTRY, THE KABUL TIMES OF AUGUST 11 FEATURED AN ARTICLE ON ITS BACK PAGE DETAILING THE EXPERIENCES OF A BRITISH CITIZEN, A MRS. HEAIRTS, WHO FELL ILL AND WAS HOSPITALIZED IN KABUL. BESIDES PRAISING THE MEDICAL CARE FACILITIES OF KABUL, LONG KNOWN AS AMONG OF THE WORST IN THE WORLD, MRS. HEAIRTS WAS ALSO QUOTED AS STATING THAT "CONTRARY TO THE BASELESS PROPAGANDA SPREAD IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, I HAVE SEEN THAT THE PEOPLE HERE ARE LIVING IN PEACE...IN MY OPINION INSTEAD OF EQUIPPING THE EXTREMISTS AND AFGHAN OPPOSITION EVERY COUNTRY SHOULD ASSIST THE HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTRES IN THIS COUNTRY."

23. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

A. WESTERN MISSIONS TAKE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. A NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE HEARD OF MUJAHIDIN PLANS TO TAKE SPECIAL DISRUPTIVE ACTIONS ON AUGUST 15 AND AUGUST 18 (AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE/ARMY DAY). THE ACTIONS PREDICTED BY MUJAHIDIN SOURCES INCLUDE INFILTRATION OF COMBAT TEAMS, ROCKET ATTACKS ON STRATEGIC INSTALLATIONS, SUCH AS THE AIRPORT AND RADIO AFGHANISTAN, AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES, SUCH AS THE ARG PALACE. SEVERAL WESTERN EMBASSIES (INCLUDING THE U.S. EMBASSY) WHICH ARE CLOSE TO ANTICIPATED TARGETS PLAN TO SHUT DOWN EARLY ON THESE DAYS AND ENCOURAGE EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO REMAIN AT HOME.

B. RUMORS: AFTER NAJIBULLAH, WHAT? NEW RUMORS ABOUT NAJIBULLAH'S DECLINE AND FALL CONTINUE TO EMERGE. HERE ARE A FEW MORE RECENT STORIES:

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	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00	EAP-00	PA-01
	STR-17	SIL-01	INRE-00	RP-10	SP-02	SR-06	SNP-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	/100 W				

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O 150636Z AUG 88

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9800

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC 2657

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//

DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO/CHI//

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MILITARY ADDRESSES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO

E.O. 12356: DECLASS QADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 8 - 14

CONFIRMS RUMORS ABOUT KHALQI-

PARCHAMI DISPUTES. NOT ONLY ARE THE KHALQIS AGAINST

THE PARCHAMIS, BOTH ARE AGAINST NAJIB, WHOM THIS SOURCE

DESCRIBES AS THE ONLY REMAINING MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO

WHO IS FLEXIBLE. THE SOURCE REPORTS THAT NAJIB IS IN

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FAVOR OF THE CONDOVEZ PLAN, BUT THE KHALQIS THREATEN THAT IF HE FORMALLY ACCEPTS IT, THERE WILL BE SERIOUS PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES. THE SOURCE SAYS NAJIB KNOWS THE REGIME ARMY CANNOT DEFEND AFGHANISTAN ALONE, OR EVEN KABUL FOR THAT MATTER. NAJIB IS LOOKING FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE. HE IS WILLING TO RESIGN IF NECESSARY, BUT WANTS TO REMAIN IN AFGHANISTAN.

(COMMENT: THIS RUMOR APPEARS SO SELF-SERVING IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN LEAKED BY SOMEONE CLOSE TO NAJIB. END COMMENT)

-- ANOTHER AFGHAN SOURCE SAYS THAT IN THE OLD CITY MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT NAJIB WILL RESIGN SOON, TO BE REPLACED BY PRIME MINISTER SHARQ FOR 2-3 MONTHS, FOLLOWED BY A LOYA JIRGA WHICH WILL ELECT A POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

-- C

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J SAYS

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THAT WITHIN ONE MONTH, ACCORDING TO MFA GOSSIP, NAJIB WILL BE GONE AND ZAHIR SHAH WILL BE BACK IN POWER.

-- ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN SOURCE, NAJIB FEELS SO INSECURE THAT HE SPENDS HIS NIGHTS AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY. (COMMENT: THIS RUMOR IS APOCRYPHAL, BUT IT IS FAIRLY WELL-ESTABLISHED THAT NAJIB DOES CHANGE HIS RESIDENCE NEARLY EVERY NIGHT, ON THE THEORY THAT A MOVING TARGET IS HARDER TO HIT WITH A ROCKET THAN A STATIONARY ONE. END COMMENT.)

-- ANOTHER RUMOR HAS SURFACED THAT IN ADDITION TO NAJIB'S YOUNGER BROTHER, RAHI SEDIQUILLAH, ANOTHER OF HIS FOUR BROTHERS HAS RECENTLY DEFECTED. (BOTH PAKISTANI AND IRANIAN DIPLOMATS ARE REPORTING THIS STORY.)

-- FINALLY, A TRUE STORY: WHEN JOURNALISTS WERE ALLOWED TO INTERVIEW TROOPS OF THE 103RD GUARDS AIRBORNE DIVISION IN KABUL EARLIER THIS WEEK, THEY ASKED WHETHER THE SOLDIERS HAD ANY VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE NAJIBULLAH REGIME. "WE HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THIS," ONE OFFICER REPLIED. "THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY DIVIDED AND WILL FALL. IT WILL BE REPLACED BY A PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT THAT WILL STABILIZE THE SITUATION."

C. DETAILS ON THE PACHMAN CAMPAIGN. ACCORDING TO

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AFGHAN AND SOVIET FORCES ENGAGED IN THE BATTLE ARE SPECIAL UNITS DRAWN FROM A VARIETY OF FORCES STATIONED AROUND KABUL. TOTAL SOVIET STRENGTH IN THE AREA IS ONE REGIMENT, AND TOTAL AFGHAN STRENGTH IS SLIGHTLY GREATER THAN THAT. DIPLOMATS HAVE IDENTIFIED TROOPS FROM THE 103RD GUARDS AIRBORNE

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DIVISION RETURNING FROM PAGHMAN, AND WE BELIEVE THAT
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CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00	EAP-00	PA-01
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PRS-01	DS-01	P-02	/102 W			

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MILITARY ADDRESS ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO

E.O. 12356: DOD, OADR

TAGS: PREL, NOPS, NCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF, ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 8 - 14

UNITS FROM THE 103RD ARE STILL ON THE PAGHMAN PLAIN.

AFGHANS SAY THAT SMALL UNITS FROM THE 108TH MOTORIZED

RIFLE DIVISION ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING; AS FOR AFGHAN

FORCES, SAYS THAT SUBUNITS OF

THE 8TH DIVISION, THE 2ND GUARDS BRIGADE, THE 38TH

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COMMANDO, AND "FORCE 10" AND "FORCE 6" ARE INVOLVED IN THE PAGHMAN FIGHTING. ALSO, TSARANDU UNITS AND REGIMENTAL ARTILLERY FOR BOTH SOVIET AND AFGHAN FORCES ARE PRESENT. RA FORCES HAVE REPORTEDLY TAKEN HEAVY CASUALTIES IN THE FIGHTING. ANOTHER AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE RA HAS STARTED A BLOOD DRIVE AMONG NEW RECRUITS TO PROVIDE BLOOD FOR THE SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN THE PAGHMAN AND SHOMALI BATTLES. ACCORDING TO THE KHAD SOURCE, THE MUJAHIDIN COMMANDER MOST MENTIONED IN REPORTS ON THE FIGHTING IS A MULLAH IZATULLAH, WHO HAS MANY SUCCESSES TO HIS CREDIT AGAINST GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE AREA. IN THE PAST WEEK MUJAHIDIN HAVE REPORTEDLY USED SEVERAL DOZEN ROCKETS AGAINST SOVIET AND AFGHAN TROOPS IN AND AROUND PAGHMAN, CAUSING HEAVY CASUALTIES.

D. THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL:

-- ACCORDING TO A SENIOR SOVIET OFFICER, GORBACHEV HIMSELF ORDERED THE SOVIET MILITARY TO SEEK A DEAL WITH
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MUJAHIDIN FORCES TO KEEP THE SALANG ROAD OPEN. THIS POLICY HAS CAUSED MUCH DISAGREEMENT AMONG LOCAL SOVIET COMMANDERS; BUT THE OBJECTIVE--TO MINIMIZE SOVIET CASUALTIES UPON WITHDRAWAL--IS BEING ACHIEVED.

-- ACCORDING TO A SOVIET SOURCE WITH FORCES WITHDRAWING BY ROAD FROM KANDAHAR, SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE WITHDRAWAL THE SOVIETS BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TV AND PUBLISHED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS THAT THE SOVIET KANDAHAR FORCE WAS WITHDRAWING PEACEFULLY AND WOULD NOT FIRE UNLESS FIRED UPON. SUBSEQUENT TO THAT, WHEN SOVIET FORCES WERE WITHDRAWING, THERE WERE TWO MINOR ENGAGEMENTS WITH MUJAHIDIN ON THE ROAD TO SHINDAND. REPORTEDLY, FIVE ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT THE COLUMN. THE FIRST CLASH TOOK PLACE AT CHARIKOT (PHONETIC, NOT LOCATED). TEN MUJAHIDIN WERE KILLED AND THEIR WEAPONS WERE SEIZED. IN THE SECOND ENGAGEMENT THE ENTIRE MUJAHIDIN GROUP WAS WIPED OUT. SEVERAL SOVIET TROOPS WERE INJURED, BUT NO ONE WAS KILLED.

-- GENERAL SEREBROV TOLD REPORTERS IN HERAT THAT SOVIET FORCES WOULD WITHDRAW FROM KABUL DURING THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER PERIOD.

E. INTERNECINE CONFLICT: ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE, DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST THREE MUJAHIDIN WERE KILLED IN FIGHTING BETWEEN JAMIAT AND GULBUDDIN FORCES AROUND THE TOWN OF BAGRAM. THE SITUATION BETWEEN THE TWO MUJAHIDIN GROUPS HAS GOTTEN SO TENSE THAT BOTH GROUPS HAVE ESTABLISHED A TEMPORARY TRUCE WITH PARCHAMI LEADERS IN BAGRAM WHILE THEY FEUD WITH EACH OTHER. GLASSMAN

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